

FIELD NOTES

A Common Field One Day, A Field of Honor Forever



Volume III, Issue 1 • February 2014

Plant a Tree at Flight 93: *award-winning project returns in 2014*

Plant a Tree at Flight 93, a signature project of the National Park Service and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), has been recognized by the Department of the Interior with the “Partners in Conservation” award. Superintendent Jeff Reinbold and Deputy Superintendent Keith Newlin recently traveled to Washington, DC to receive the award. The honor confirms what the Friends have known all along: *Plant a Tree at Flight 93* is a valuable partnership program that will make a positive and lasting difference to future visitors to Flight 93 National Memorial.

The objective of the program, now in its third year, is to restore an area of Penn’s Woods to its pre-mining appearance by planting a variety of tree and woodland shrubs on the rocky soil surrounding the forty Memorial Groves. The new plantings, which eventually will total 150,000 specimens, will create an essential windbreak for the Memorial Groves (and the visitors who walk among them), and improve wildlife habitat and the overall appearance of the strip-mined land. The plantings will help rebuild soil on the site and limit erosion.

A different type of value, no less important, is the experience for the volunteers who are able to plant the trees. “Tree planting volunteers connect with the park in an important way,” Deputy Superintendent Newlin says. “They are actually building their park, and at the same time, showing honor to the passengers and crew of Flight 93 by improving the landscape here.” More than 1,000 volunteers have participated in the planting efforts at Flight 93 to date. This year, on Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26, another 30 acres of the site will be planted with 20,000 seedlings. Four hundred volunteers will work under the direction of trained foresters. Registration details will be announced in March.

Newlin, who has supervised the *Plant a Tree* program for the past two years, recalls the challenges the NPS faced in implementing the design chosen for Flight 93 National Memorial, which called for replanting large areas of the site with 650 trees per acre. “We knew that traditional planting methods would not work here due to the level of soil compaction, the acidity of the soil, and the severe climate,” Newlin recalls. The NPS turned to OSM for assistance. Using techniques perfected over years of reforestation efforts at other strip-mined sites in the Northeast, OSM and other agencies developed a plan for the Flight 93 site which has led to a 70-75% survival rate of the seedlings planted in the program’s first year, 2011. A key element of the planting technique is “ripping” the site, plowing it as deeply as possible in the fall before the planting season. The species chosen for planting are selected for survivability in this soil and climate. Forestry professionals trained in planting techniques supervise small teams of volunteers to ensure that each seedling is properly placed.

Partnership is the key to the event’s success, Newlin says. “We could not undertake a project of this scale without the technical expertise of our
continued on next page



Tree planters work in teams to dig holes and carefully place each seedling in the rocky soil of Flight 93 National Memorial. (File photo from 2013, Chuck Wagner)



Volunteer to Plant a Tree:

April 25-26, 2014

Watch for registration details in March

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Park Ranger

FIELD NOTES CONTRIBUTORS

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 Lladel Lichty
 Kathie Shaffer
 Donna Glessner
 Cindy Breen, *Layout Editor*
 Chuck Wagner, *Photographer*

MEMORIAL HOURS OF OPERATION

November 1 - March 31
 9 am to 5 pm (last entry 4:30 pm)
 April 1 - October 31
 9 am to 7 pm (last entry 6:30 pm)

GPS ADDRESS OF ENTRANCE

6424 Lincoln Highway
 Stoystown, PA 15563

From the President's desk

Dear Friends,

My sincere thanks to each of you for the opportunity to serve for another year as your president. I am looking forward to an exciting and very busy year! We will see construction all over the park, we will plant lots of trees, and we will make many new Friends as people visit the Memorial for the first time, or as they return time and again to honor the memory of the passengers and crew of Flight 93.

As we work alongside the National Park Service in support of their planning and management of the Memorial, we continue to marvel at the level of support received from the many wonderful volunteers and donors on a daily basis. Thank you for all that you do to support the Friends of Flight 93.

Lladel Lichty,

President, Board of Directors



Superintendent Jeff Reinbold holds a stake while Friends President Lladel Lichty drives it into the ground at the future site of the Visitor Center. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on September 10, 2013. (Chuck Wagner)

Plant a Tree at Flight 93, continued from page 1

partners, the donation of many seedlings and tools, and the corporate sponsors who support the effort.” The National Park Foundation has been an important part of the *Plant a Tree* effort each year, recruiting enthusiastic new donors to finance the project and actually help plant the trees. The majority of the seedlings are provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry. For the second year, blight-resistant chestnut trees, provided by the American Chestnut Foundation, will be planted at Flight 93 National Memorial. Their locations will be plotted using GPS technology to allow special monitoring of this species. One thousand chestnut seedlings are in the 2014 planting plan.

In this year's plan, volunteers will work for a full day instead of a half day, so that each volunteer will plant at least 50 seedlings. Members of the Friends are needed to plant trees and to assist with registration and logistics on planting days. In addition, this year the Friends have a major role in pre-event registration. If you would like to *Plant a Tree at Flight 93*, mark your calendar and watch your Inbox for the opening of registration. Tree planters must be at least 14 years of age and must pre-register.



Plant a Tree at Flight 93 partners accept the *Partners in Conservation* award from the Secretary of the Interior at a recent ceremony in Washington, DC. L-R: Keith Newlin, Deputy Superintendent, Western Pennsylvania Parks, Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior, Scott Eggerud, Forester, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. (Tami Heilemann, DOI)



Countdown to Construction: *Visitor Center and Learning Center on the horizon*

Years of planning will culminate with earthmoving and the beginning of construction of the Flight 93 Visitor Center and Learning Center Complex this spring. URS Construction, the North Carolina firm that was the successful bidder for the project, will mobilize for the job by placing construction trailers on site in mid-February. Over the spring, summer, and fall, the walls of these two interpretive centers will rise from the former location of the Rollock scrapyard. When completed in 2015, the buildings will be an essential part of the visitor experience, a place where the Flight 93 story can be told more fully, through photographs, text, audio recordings, video, and artifacts.

According to Deputy Superintendent Keith Newlin, who is managing the project for Flight 93 National Memorial, visitors should see earthmoving begin by late March or early April. Newlin is excited about the upcoming construction season. “Most of the earth moving for this phase of the project was actually done when the Memorial Plaza was constructed, so I expect to see the buildings rise rather quickly during the course of the summer,” he said.

As many as half a dozen subcontractors will be employed on the project and at the height of construction, there could be as many as 150 workers on site at any one time. By fall, Newlin says the exterior of both the Visitor and Learning Centers should be complete, allowing construction crews to move indoors to complete interior finishes over the winter months. Both buildings are scheduled for completion by Spring 2015, making way for exhibit installation in the Visitor Center during Summer 2015. Newlin anticipates construction will remain on schedule, with dedication of the complex by Fall 2015.

The 6,809 square foot Visitor Center is a single-story structure with a footprint that continues the curve of the Memorial Groves and

pedestrian walkway. Many of the building materials and finishes used at the Memorial Plaza and Visitor Shelter will be repeated at the Visitor Center complex, including black granite for the flight path walkway, and textured concrete for the building’s walls.

The building’s hilltop location will provide a dramatic view of the crash site. Other striking architectural details of the Visitor Center, designed by Paul Murdoch, are the Flight Path Walkway that bisects the walls of the building at two points, and an interior window that affords visitors a view of the crash site and Memorial Plaza. The Center will house a permanent exhibit that relates the Flight 93 story in the context of the September 11 attacks on the nation.

The Learning Center is a smaller structure at 4,686 square feet, and will house a flexible, multipurpose area, a small kitchen and additional work space. Newlin anticipates that the Learning Center will be used for many different purposes, including lectures, programs, meetings, conferences, temporary exhibits, educational programming, receptions, and staging for large group visits to the memorial. The multipurpose space will accommodate a gathering of 75 seated persons and many more for informal gatherings. The construction project includes installation of audiovisual equipment for projection and video-conferencing.

Concluding his description of the upcoming construction season, Newlin observed, “The skyscape at the former scrapyard site will change dramatically with construction of the tall Visitor Center walls and flight path walkway. We’re looking forward to the new opportunities for sharing the Flight 93 story that will be possible when the Visitor Center opens in 2015. Visitors will leave with a much deeper knowledge of the 9/11 event.”



When the Visitor Center complex opens in 2015, visitors will view the crash site and Memorial Plaza from the end of the black granite Flight Path walkway, enter the Visitor Center to the left of the walkway, and join in programs at the Learning Center, seen here to the right of the walkway. (*bioLinia and Paul Murdoch Architects*)

This eastern view of the Visitor Center shows the Flight Path Walkway that affords a view of the crash site and Memorial Plaza in the distance, the interior viewing window, and the exit leading to the Memorial Groves and the pedestrian bridge across the wetlands. The Learning Center is the building to the right. (*bioLinia and Paul Murdoch Architects*)



On the frontline at Flight 93:

Field Notes is pleased to feature Flight 93 National Memorial's Interpretive Division in this issue. The Interp Division consists of Barbara Black, Chief of Interpretation, and a staff of four full-time employees who provide visitor services on the memorial plaza year round. These individuals comprise a team which helps visitors understand the Flight 93 story and the memorial landscape, as well as protect the park and its resources.

Park Guide **Wendy Clay** has local roots and calls Somerset "home". She is a graduate of Somerset Area High School and earned a B.S. in Park and Resource Management from Slippery Rock University. Following her graduation from Slippery Rock, Clay served as an intern with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) at Catoctin Mountain Park in Thurmont, Maryland. As an intern at Catoctin, a National Park Service site, she had the unique experience of living in the park. Clay officially began her career with the National Park Service at Flight 93 National Memorial as a seasonal employee in 2008. Today, Clay works as a Park Guide at Flight 93 and her main duties include meeting visitors on the memorial plaza where she does both informal interpretation (answering visitors' questions), as well as providing formal interpretive talks to visitors who gather on the benches by the Visitor Shelter. Clay also prepares the weekly schedule for the Flight 93 Interp Staff, schedules and manages group visits and processes requests for Special Use Permits for activities that range from organized group visits to wreath-laying to providing an artistic tribute to the passengers and crew of Flight 93.

When asked to share a special memory from her experience at Flight 93, Clay recalled her role in the dedication of the national memorial on September 10, 2011. For most of the ceremony, she was assigned to an area behind the Wall of Names to help secure the enormous, custom-made drape that covered the Wall of Names. Out of view of the public and unable to see the ceremony, she remembers hearing wisps of Sara McLaughlin singing "Angel," the sound of bees buzzing in the field of wildflowers, and the eruption of applause when President Clinton promised to lead a fundraising effort to complete the memorial. On signal of a Secret Service agent, she and the others stationed behind the Wall of Names, dropped the drape, unveiling for the first time, the nation's memorial to the passengers and crew of Flight 93. Clay says it was an amazing moment and an experience she will never forget.

Park Ranger **Adam Shaffer** is also a native of Somerset County. Shaffer graduated from Juniata College with a B.A. in Museum Education (History) and earned his Master's in Public History from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Shaffer's connection to the Flight 93 crash site actually began in the fall of 2001 as a first responder who assisted in the Coroner's sweep of the crash site. He joined the staff at Flight 93 National Memorial in 2005 as a SCA intern, then in 2006, began his NPS career at Flight 93 as a Park Guide. Shaffer is currently employed as a Park Ranger at Flight 93. In addition to providing visitor services and interpreting the Flight 93 story for park visitors, he manages more than 75 volunteers in the Volunteer-In-Parks (VIP) program for the national memorial; these volunteers include the Ambassadors and the Friends Plaza Greeters who are trained and supervised by Shaffer. As Flight 93 VIP Coordinator, Shaffer works closely with the Friends in planning the annual Reforestation event, *Plant a Tree at Flight 93*. A more recent duty he has been assigned is the development of a Junior Ranger program for the park's youngest visitors. Shaffer, along with Seasonal Ranger MaryJane Hartman, has been working with the University of Pittsburgh Flight 93 Research Team, The Fred Rogers Company, and Highmark Caring Place on this special project.

Shaffer shared a memorable experience from his nearly nine years with the memorial. He recalled the August 2009 visit of then-Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, to Somerset County for the purpose of meeting local landowners to facilitate acquisition of the property necessary for construction of the national memorial. The Superintendent assigned Shaffer to escort the Secretary and his staff on their visit. Ranger Shaffer says

continued on page 5



Park Guide Wendy Clay with Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell (Chuck Wagner)



Park Ranger Adam Shaffer

Rangers help visitors understand the Flight 93 story

continued from page 4

he was humbled when the Secretary took time to speak with him at the airport prior to his departure, assuring him that significant progress had been made that day and that, “The next time we see each other, we will be breaking ground for the national memorial.” Shaffer says Salazar was as good as his word. He was there when the Secretary returned on a beautiful November day that same year to participate in a ground breaking ceremony for Flight 93 National Memorial. Park Ranger Shaffer says he will never forget the Secretary’s commitment to ensure that the Flight 93 crash site would be protected and preserved for future generations.

Flight 93 National Memorial Park Ranger **Brendan Wilson** hails from Norwalk, Connecticut. Ranger Wilson earned a B.A. in History with a Minor in Archaeology from The George Washington University in Washington, DC. He received his Master’s in History, with a concentration in Public History, from Northeastern University in Boston. Wilson began his National Park Service career as a seasonal employee at Adams National Historical Park in Quincy, Massachusetts. He achieved permanent status with the National Park Service on assignment on the National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington, DC. While in Washington, Wilson provided interpretation at eleven different memorials. From Washington, DC, Wilson took a duty assignment with San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park in San Francisco, California, followed by assignment with Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, Texas. With this interesting and varied background in the National Park Service, Ranger Wilson arrived at



Park Ranger Brendan Wilson

Flight 93 National Memorial in February 2011. In addition to delivering programs to park visitors, Wilson manages the park’s website and social media, including Facebook and Twitter, and soon, Flickr and Tumblr. He also oversees the memorial’s very popular cell phone tour (he is “The Voice”), develops publications and signage for the park, and assists with public affairs matters, including press releases and media requests. Wilson is a certified EMT and has provided emergency medical support to numerous visitors to Flight 93. Ranger Wilson says he particularly enjoys helping visitors, both in person and virtually, develop new insights and perspectives on the Flight 93 story.

Ranger/Education Specialist **Gregory Zaborowski** was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is very proud of his family’s military service record, including service in WW I, WW II and the Korean War. Zaborowski graduated from Duquesne University with a B.S. in Education and a M.A. in History. He earned a B.A. in Theatre from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and also holds a degree in Film and

Videography from Pittsburgh Filmmakers. Ranger/Education Specialist Zaborowski began his career with the National Park Service in 1989 as a seasonal employee at Fort Necessity National Battlefield. He then worked at Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site and at Johnstown Flood National Memorial as an Education Specialist. In 1994, Zaborowski received the “Freeman Tilden Award for Interpretation, Mid-Atlantic Region.” He accepted a detail at Flight 93 National Memorial in November 2013. Having been assigned at four of the five national parks in Western Pennsylvania, Zaborowski is very familiar with the heritage of “Westsylvania”. He says he especially enjoys the opportunity for informal interpretation at Flight 93 National Memorial - that is, talking with visitors one-on-one and answering their questions.

Zaborowski’s ties to Flight 93 actually date back to the fall of 2001 when he visited the crash site with members of the park service and in December 2001, when he recorded and edited a video of the first public meeting held in Shanksville to discuss the future of the crash site and the *possible* involvement of the National Park Service as caretaker of the Flight 93 crash site. You might say Ranger/Education Specialist Zaborowski’s experience at Flight 93 has come full circle.



Ranger/Education Specialist Gregory Zaborowski



Flight 93: A San Diego perspective

An essay by Greg Keiling,

Member, Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial

As with most individuals, the events of September 11, 2001 will be forever etched in my memory. In the days that followed the attack, I learned that someone I knew was a passenger on board Flight 93. Her name is Deora Bodley.

I knew Deora from my days working at a children's residential treatment center in San Diego. In the late '90s, Deora volunteered at a local animal shelter which I often visited with the kids I worked with at the treatment center. I am grateful for the conversations we had during these visits and appreciate the amazing impact Deora had on the kids. To this day, Deora is an inspiration in my daily life.

Over the years, I have made eleven visits to the Flight 93 site, including attending the Groundbreaking Ceremony in November 2009 and the 10th anniversary weekend, however my first visit was to a temporary memorial on December 26, 2006. I remember that day like it was yesterday - the cold rain and the sound of the wind and the banging of a suspended cross against a flag pole. As I stood there looking out across the field where Flight 93 crashed, I remember thinking how upsetting it was that though only five years had passed, it seemed that many people I talked with had no idea about Flight 93. My fondest memory of that day was looking out at the Sacred Ground from the tribute fence and benches and discovering what has become my calling: educating others about the Flight 93 story and raising funds and awareness for Flight 93 National Memorial through the power of friendship and music.

Over the past seven years, I have utilized my networking abilities around Southern California to organize, host and participate in thirteen Flight 93 benefit concerts. Though these shows feature only local bands and artists, I have raised and donated more than \$9,000 toward the completion of Flight 93 National Memorial. More recently, I've begun facilitating presentations of the Flight 93 story and the development of the national memorial. My first presentation was on September 11, 2013 at a local middle school. I choose to do this because it is important to me that the kids are not only given an honest and accurate depiction of what happened on Flight 93, but more importantly, that they understand *why* it happened the way it did. My goal is for students to understand and appreciate the story of Flight 93 and the courage and heroism of the passengers and crew, and that as a result, these students apply these very concepts to their lives to make a difference in the world.

Though I live in San Diego, California, I am always close to the memorial and its supporters in spirit. I always look forward to my visits there. Taking in the open sky and surroundings, walking to the Wall of Names, paying my respects, making new friends, I leave there a better person than I was before. To me, what is so amazing about this special place is that despite the reason for its existence, I see it as one of the most positive, uplifting places on earth. It is there that I learned to find



Greg Keiling

Jason Dahl - LeRoy Homer, Jr. - Lorraine Bay
 Sandra Bradshaw - Cee Cee Lyles - Wanda Green
 Deborah Anne Jacobs Welsh - Christian Adams
 Todd Beamer - Alan Beaven - Mark Bingham
Deora Bodley - Marion Britton - Thomas E. Burnett Jr.
 William Cashman - Georgine Rose Corrigan
 Patricia Cushing
 Patrick "Joe" Driscoll
 Jane Folger
 Andrew Garcia
 Lauren Grandcolas
 Linda Gronlund
 Toshiya Kuge
 Waleska Martinez - Nicole Miller - Louis J. Nacke II
 Donald & Jean Peterson - Mark "Mickey" Rothenberg
 Christine Snyder - John Talignani
 Honor Elizabeth Wainio - Kristen Gould White

Joseph DeLuca
 Edward Porter Felt
 Colleen L. Fraser
 Jeremy Glick
 Donald F. Greene
 Richard Guadagno
 Hilda Marcin

Dream Street Live
 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, CA 92107

**Remembering Deora Bodley & The Heroes of
 September 11, 2001 - United Flight 93**
 with live Acoustic Performances from...

**Alyssa Jacey ~ Feeling of Hate ~ Forsaken Truth
 I.U. ~ Alexx (of Media Lab) & Allison ~ SD93**

Proceeds to benefit Flight 93 Memorial Project
 For more information, please visit www.HonorFlight93.org
9/11/07 - 8pm - \$6 - 21+
 Presented By: BandMinusLabel.com

Poster from Greg Keiling's first Flight 93 benefit concert

good in something tragic, not to mourn, but to celebrate, not to fear, but to hope. As long as I am here, I will continue to share the Flight 93 story of courage and heroism, in hopes of inspiring our fellow man, just as Deora and the heroes of Flight 93 inspire me and so many others.

Editor's Note: Proceeds from Keiling's concerts were contributed to both the Families of Flight 93 and the National Park Foundation Capital Campaign, honorflight93.org.

McMillan and Alexander join Friends board

Tom McMillan and Don Alexander were elected to three-year terms on the Board of the Directors at the Friends Annual Meeting held in November. Meet your new board members:

Tom McMillan brings to the board a broad background in communications and marketing, as well as a passion for history and sharing the Flight 93 story. He is in his 17th year as Vice President of Communications for the Pittsburgh Penguins of the National Hockey League, following an 18-year career in the Pittsburgh sports media as a writer, columnist, editor and broadcaster. In his current duties with the Penguins, McMillan oversees media relations, website content and corporate communications strategy. He also serves as team spokesman on a variety of hockey and business matters.



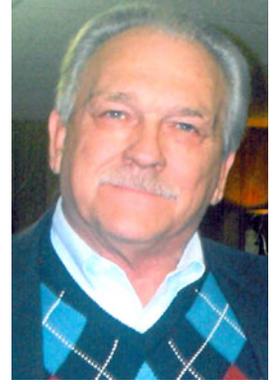
Tom McMillan

A history buff, McMillan is a member of the Board of Directors of the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, a member of the marketing committee at the Gettysburg Foundation, and a docent for the Civil War Room at the Carnegie Library in Carnegie. He also is an adjunct professor at Point Park University and is co-director of the Pittsburgh Center for Sports Media and Marketing at Point Park.

He has been a volunteer Plaza Greeter at Flight 93 National Memorial for the past two summers. McMillan feels it is an honor to work with the Friends and the NPS staff to recount the story of the Flight 93 passengers and crew and honor their memory. "They left a legacy of pure American heroism that must be preserved for our children and future generations," McMillan stated. "The selfless and courageous action of the forty heroes is a reminder of everything that makes our country great."

McMillan is a graduate of Bellevue High School and Point Park, with a degree in journalism and communications. He resides in Wexford, Pennsylvania.

Don Alexander, a fourth generation Floridian, retired to the Somerset area in 2012 with his wife, Trudi, a native of Davidsville in Somerset County. The Alexanders joined the Friends and Don began volunteering as a Plaza Greeter in 2013. He later volunteered to provide financial services to the Friends and, in January, was elected Treasurer of the Board of Directors.



Don Alexander

"My sister-in-law and her husband suggested we consider the Friends as an avenue for our volunteer efforts," Alexander recalls. "I started as a Greeter, and the more I participated, the more I realized that there was a definite need for more volunteer assistance and knew that there could not be a more important and satisfying use of my time and efforts."

Alexander majored in accounting at the University of Florida and has served in management and financial positions with several corporations, including Goodyear and Bethlehem Steel. He has owned his own accounting firm, and on the corporate side, held the positions of Controller, CFO, and VP of Finance, Accounting, and Administration.

Don and Trudi are the parents of four children and have seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. They both enjoy volunteering, playing golf, and spending time with family.

Three other board members, Lance Sturni of Somerset, Mal Fuller of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, and Lladel Lichty of Indian Lake in Somerset County, were re-elected to three-year terms at the Annual Meeting.

Looking ahead...

February 17	Presidents Day - Flight 93 National Memorial Closed
March 1	Commissioning of the USS <i>Somerset</i> , Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, PA
March 20	First Day of Spring
April 1	Beginning of summer hours at Flight 93 National Memorial; the park is open from 9 am to 7 pm, with last entry at 6:30
April 19-26	National Park Week
April 25-26	Plant a Tree at Flight 93 Reforestation event at Flight 93 National Memorial



Many members of the Friends will be among the crowd gathered at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia for the Commissioning of the USS *Somerset* on March 1. The *Somerset* is the third of three new amphibious docking ships commissioned by the U.S. Navy that were named in memory of those who died in the September 11 attacks, joining the USS *New York* and the USS *Arlington*. The ship will have a crew of about 400, and will be based in San Diego, California. As Families of Flight 93 President Gordie Felt told a local newspaper, "It's more than just steel. It's going to be a living reminder and memorial to Somerset County and to the folks who lost their lives there on Sept. 11, 2001." (Scott Koen)



Secretary Jewell visits Flight 93 National Memorial

Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, made her first visit to Flight 93 National Memorial in September, 2013, taking part in the Groundbreaking for the Visitor Center Complex, carrying a lantern to the wall of names, laying a wreath, and offering these remarks during the remembrance ceremony on September 11:

Each of us here today remembers September 11, 2001.

We remember where we were, the horror we felt as we watched the images on television, and the terrible aftermath of pain and sorrow.

For the families of the 40 and thousands of other families impacted that day, you have known the terrible pain of loss.

A well-known verse reminds us “greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for his friends.” We never know when we might be called upon to lay down our lives for others. Certainly the heroes of Flight 93 had no idea that they would be heroes or that they would lay down their lives for their nation that day.

But their actions likely saved the lives of untold people in Washington and protected the very symbol of liberty and democracy that fuels the hatred of terrorists: the U.S. Capitol.

This Memorial we are surrounded by today protects and honors the remains of these heroes and ensures that generations from now, the story of Flight 93 will still remind and inspire those who come after us.

It is a testament to the 40 that 300,000 people a year visit this place of honor and more than 100,000 people have donated to build the Memorial.

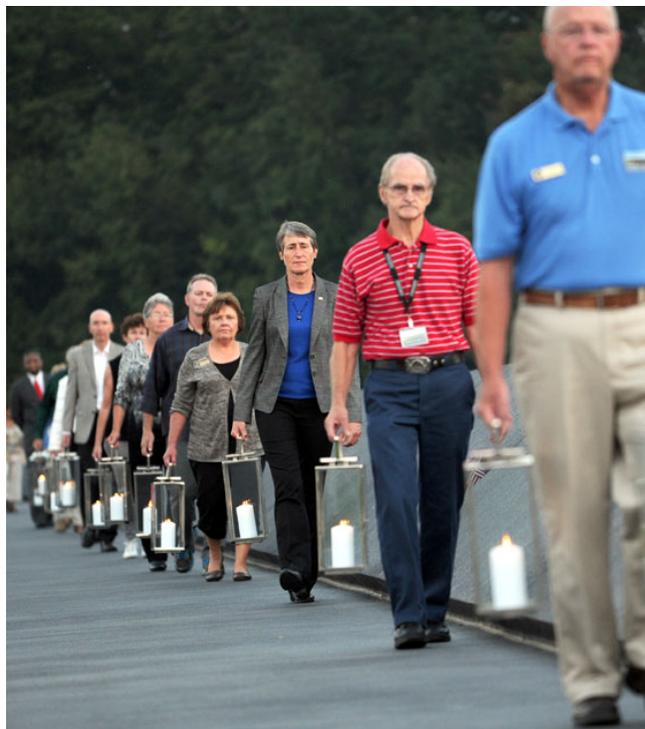
Thank you to the Families of Flight 93, the Flight 93 Advisory Commission, the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force, Friends of Flight 93 and the National Park Foundation for your tireless work to create a memorial to honor these heroes.

While the formal partnership that created this Memorial has concluded its work, the spirit of that partnership will continue. The partners have given the nation a wonderful gift – not only a fitting tribute to the passengers and crew of Flight 93, but an opportunity to participate in the making of the Memorial.

I want to thank the local community and volunteers who have welcomed us as a new neighbor, and who are working with us to ensure people know of this place and of the important events that happened in the skies above us.

The National Park Service has the sacred responsibility of managing this site on behalf of the families, our partners and all the American people. We are in the forever business and we will protect this hallowed ground, the final resting place of your loved ones, and make sure future generations know this important story.

Thank you.



Photos by Tami Heilemann, DOI